

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the applicant's arguments that the bellows of Schulte do not perform the same function as the bellows of Williams, and therefore one of ordinary skill in the art would not have expected that combining the two references would produce a successful result, are convincing. The bellows of Schulte are used to regulate negative pressure, not to provide negative pressure as in Williams.
2. Applicant's arguments as to the recognition of energy savings are not convincing, because the prior art does not need to recognize the same problem as applicant. The 132 Declaration is not convincing because it is only commensurate with the scope of claims 5, 24, and 25 as the experiment described (pages 5 and 6) was only performed with the reinforced bellows, not a concertina bellows.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ELIZABETH R. MACNEILL whose telephone number is (571)272-9970. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Sirmons can be reached on (571) 272-4965. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elizabeth R MacNeill/
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